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http://shoujosense.com

#20

SFX NOISE 2X
Gokokuji...!!
I HAVE SOMEONE I WANT TO OFFER THIS TROPHY TO
OTOWA HITOMI, OUR LEADER

YOU REALLY CAME.
OTOWA...!!

COME HERE ..!
AH... BUT...
AAH... WAIT A SEC-
HERE, WE'VE BROUGHT HER!
HEY!
HURRY, HURRY
TSUBA-KIYAMA-SENPAI
AND HON-GOU-KUN
COME ON, SHUN IS WAITING!!

GOKOKU-JI
I BELIEVED THAT YOU'D RETURN
THANKS, OTOWA.
NOW
AH...
SFX: NOISE 2X
I...
B-BUT ...
I WANT YOU TO GREET EVERY-ONE AS THE DORM 1 REPRESENTATIVE.
HITOMI!! DO YOUR BEST!
WE'RE WATCH-ING PRO-PERLY!!

YOU'RE OUR REPRESENTATIVE
nod
They all waited..
for me.
I GOT IT.
YEAH!
Gokokuji..
Gokokuji's extended hand is so warm.
FIGHTING ALONGSIDE EVERYONE FOR THE PAST YEAR
I WAS REALLY HAPPY LIVING WITH YOU ALL.
It poured so much courage into me.
touch...
I want to reply to their feelings
with all I have.

THANKS TO EVERYONE, DORM 1 WILL HAVE LEADERSHIP OVER THE OTHER DORMS NEXT YEAR
I HAVE... JUST ONE WISH FOR NEXT YEAR
I WANT EVERYONE TO SPEND IT GETTING ALONG WITH EACH OTHER

THINGS LIKE "DORM 1", "DORM 2", OR YOUR GRADE IN SCHOOL...
OR EVEN OUR PREVIOUS EXISTENCES, DO NOT MATTER...!
RATHER THAN BEING BOUND BY YOUR PREVIOUS EXISTENCE,
I WANT YOU TO ALL LIVE YOUR CURRENT LIFE...
I WANT TO BRING EVERYONE CLOSER WITH FRIENDSHIP
AS A STUDENT OF THIS ACADEMY...

SFX CLAPPING
NICE
AGREED!
SFX SILENCE
HEY, HEY...
WHAT'S A "PREVIOUS EXISTENCE"?
IS IT ALL RIGHT TO SAY THAT?
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS...?
SFX NOISE 2X
...BUT
DON'T YOU THINK IT SEEMS POSSIBLE TOO..?
W-WELL, CERTAINLY
WELL,
PEACE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING
SFX CHEERING
GREAT SPEECH!!
NICE GOING, DORM 1!
FOR REAL? YEAH ME TOO
RIGHT
THE TRUTH IS I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT I WANT TO GET ALONG WITH GUYS FROM DIFFERENT DORMS
GETTING ALONG WON'T HURT ANYBODY
IT WAS NICE
Y-YEAH
SFX CLAPPING

SFX: WALK
cheering
?
SHOUIN-SENSEI?
ARE YOU STILL KEEPING UP YOUR FARCE, EVEN AFTER ALL THIS TIME, HITOMI?
O-ONII-CHAN..
WHY DID YOU COME HERE NOW WHEN EVERY-ONE KNOWS YOU'RE A WOMAN?

I THOUGHT HE LOOKED VERY FEMININE, BUT
SERIOUSLY?!!
WASN'T HE EXPELLED?
EH..
THAT'S A GIRL?
SFX TAP
!!
IF YOU PROTECT HITOMI, A WOMAN, DORM 1 WILL BE DISQUALIFIED... ARE YOU FINE WITH THAT,
GOKUJI?
IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER THAT SHE'S A WOMAN, RIGHT?
Hey
...
KANDA...!

SFX STOP
YOU'RE GOING TO PROTECT A WOMAN?
ISN'T THAT STRANGE?
I DON'T THINK THAT IT'S STRANGE EITHER
ODA...!
SFX CHATTER 2X
SFX NOISE 2X
SO, SHE WAS A WOMAN ...
BUT THERE'S NO EVIDENCE THAT THAT'S GIRL.
ISN'T THIS DAD?
THEN WE SHOULD JUST CHANGE THE RULES OF THIS ACADEMY.
BUT IF YOU STILL INSIST THAT WOMEN CAN'T BE ENROLLED HERE,
IT'S NOT STRANGE IF SOMEONE WAS A WOMAN IN THEIR PAST LIFE,

HEY! THAT'S VULGAR!
BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY!!
EVEN THOUGH IT'S ONLY TEMPORARILY, RIGHT NOW WE ARE REPRESENTATIVES, CARRYING JAPAN'S FUTURE ON OUR SHOULDERS!!
WHISTLE WHISTLE
click
UHM! IS IT TRUE
THAT YOU'RE A FEMALE?!
PLEASE SHOW US PROOF THAT YOU'RE A GIRL!!
What should I do...?
..It's my fault...
THIS'S BAD... EVERYONE'S PANICKING
SFX NOISE 2X

SFX GRAB
LET'S GO!

NOW, HURRY!
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP
AH, OKAY, OKAY!
WE WON'T LET YOU PAST HERE!
Hey, hey, fall back!
EVERYONE, PLEASE HURRY AND RETURN TO YOUR DORM SO WE CAN START THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE BONFIRE
HEY, CLEAR A PATH!
IT'S THE TRUTH
It's a girl!
THAT'S SO NOT CUTE!
This guy...
Dude read the mood...
Hi looks like fun!
I'LL GO, TOO!

Hm.
YOU'RE AWFULLY CALM, ODA
THAT'S NOT THE CASE
SHOULDN'T WE GO PREPARE FOR THE BONFIRE SOON, TOO?

HITOMI LEFT...
KANDA
Hoh...
SAY, ODA-SAN,
IS IT OKAY NOT TO CHASE AFTER HER?
I LEAVE HER IN HIS CARE NOW.
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'D CHASE AFTER SHOUIN-SENSEI.
I SEE
BECAUSE IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO BE BY SENSEI'S SIDE UNTIL HE UNDERSTANDS IT.
FOR THE SAKE OF BOTH OTOWA SUBARUS -

ODA, YOU'RE FINE WITH THAT?
LOSING THE BATTLE, TOO.
I'M COMPLE-TELY FINE WITH IT
TAKE EVERYTHING FROM YOU?
IS IT ALL RIGHT TO LET GOKOKUJI

I'M REALLY A HAPPY PERSON
HAVING TWO PEOPLE I HAVE SUCH FEELINGS FOR...
THAT'S MY WAY OF EXPRESSING MY LOVE

...I STILL CAN'T COME TO TERMS WITH IT
SFX: BLOCK
!!
OOPSIE! WAIT RIGHT THERE!!
YEAH!
JUST A BIT MORE AND WE'LL BE IN THE DORM
RUN!

YOU...
I WON'T LET YOU SAY YOU FORGET ABOUT ME!
MOBUTANI
THIS FEELS NOSTALGIC,
LIKE IT'S HAPPENED BEFORE
RIGHT?
COME AT ME!!
SEX SHIFTING

SFX: GRAB
?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M A WOMAN.
SO WHAT?!
NO NEED TO GO EASY ON ME BECAUSE OF THAT!!
I SEE, A WOMAN
Hey
WAIT!! I JUST WANT TO ASK YOU SOMETHING!
ARE YOU REALLY A WOMAN?
EVEN IF YOU ARE A WOMAN, WE'RE RIVALS.
Rivals...? Since when?
YEAH...?
SFX: SQUIRMING
LET'S GO, MOBLIO-SAN!!
STOP IT!
I JUST WANTED TO CONFIRM IT.
So cool.
AS EXPECTED OF MOBLIO-SAN!!
WE'RE GOING BACK!

WHAT WAS THAT...?
NO IDEA...
WAAH, THIS ROOM BRINGS BACK MEMORIES!
IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A MONTH SINCE YOU LEFT.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION, YOU'RE RIGHT.
Ahaha!
LOOK, YOUR ROOM IS JUST AS YOU LEFT IT.
...

THAT WAS RIGHT AFTER I ENTERED THIS SCHOOL.
WE SLEPT HERE TOGETHER TO HELP ME REMEMBER MY PREVIOUS EXISTENCE
Feels awkward.
Ah!
That...
WE... LIVED HERE TOGETHER AS MEN.
IT'S EMBARRASSING THINKING ABOUT IT NOW.
OTOWA, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.

breathe out.
YEAH.
I WORKED HARD TO GET YOU TO COME BACK AND SEE THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL.
YOU RECOGNIZED ME AS CHIEF.
YEAH

EVEN THOUGH I SAID THAT OUR PREVIOUS EXISTENCES DO NOT MATTER,
AND THOSE ARE MY REAL FEELINGS,
I'M HAPPY TO BE APPROVED OF AS KONDOU ISAMI

SFX: PSSHHH

I...
NOT AS KONDOU ISAMI,
BUT AS OTOWA HITOMI

SFX: BOOOM
...KE YOU.
EH...?
I COULDN'T HEAR YOU.

SFX: BOOOM
I SAID
THAT
BREATHE IN
HAHAHA!

I LIKE YOU!!
silence
...!
GOKOKUJI, YOU'RE REALLY HANDSOME, BUT I CAN'T DECIDE ...
There's no more reworks ?

SORRY.
I CAN'T DECIDE WHICH SIDE OF YOU I LIKE BEST.
I LIKE YOU.
EH...?

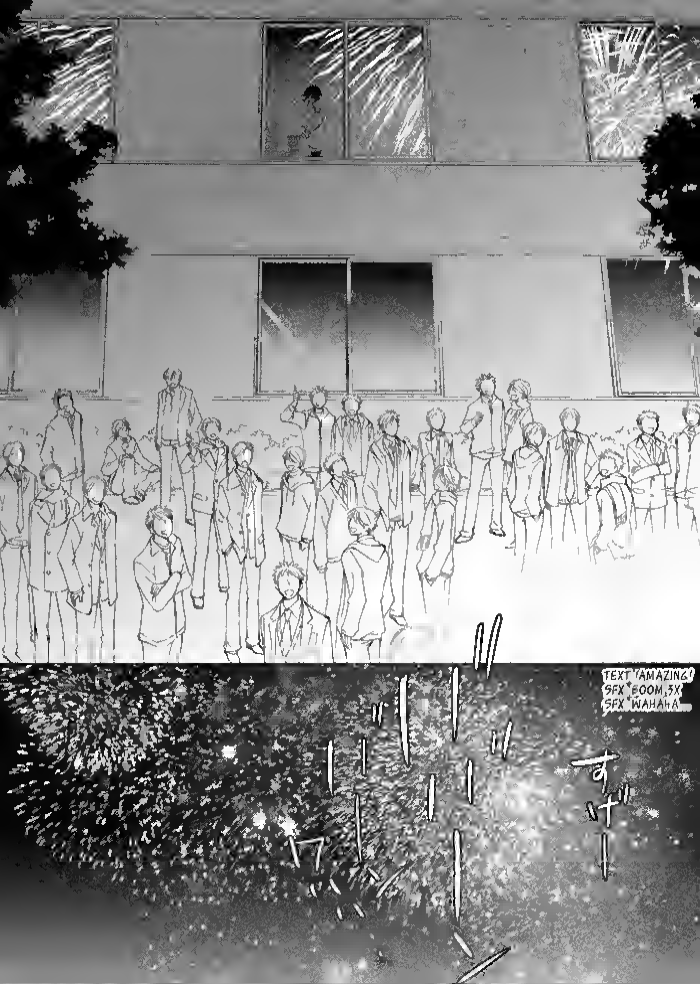
NO WAY.
I COULD'VE NEVER EVEN IMAGINED
THAT OUR FEELINGS WERE MUTUAL...
EH?!
THEN WHAT DID YOU THINK WAS GONNA HAPPEN,
CONFESSING LIKE THAT, BRIMMING WITH CONFIDENCE?!
RIGHT...
THE TRUTH IS...
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO THIS.

SFX HUG
AH...

What should I do?
ba-thump
ba-thump
His heart is beating like crazy.
Or is this perhaps
CAN I CALL YOU HITOMI?
I can hear... Gokokuji's heartbeat.
my heart-beat...?

HITOMI,
YEAH
I LOVE YOU

...YEAH...
I love you too,
Shun.


TEXT 'AMAZING'
SFX 'BOOM,3X'
SFX 'WAHAHA'

IF WE GO IN NOW, WE'LL BE INTRUDING!
EEEH?!
SO LET'S GO!
IT'S NOT LIKE I LIKE BEING A PEEPING TOM!
I LIKE IT QUITE A LOT.
SMIRK
AH!
あ
OH.
SFX: BLUSH

What should we do?
SHOULD WE TELL EVERYONE?
Eh?
ISN'T IT FINE EVEN IF WE DON'T TELL THEM ..?
BUT WE NEED TO TELL THEM EVENTUALLY!
SFX GLOMP
カシ
WE ALREADY KNOW, YOU IDIOTS!!
END

この度は『SSG』4巻をお求めくださってどうもありがとうございます！

新連組がモチーフとなる現代高校生の話を描きたいと担当さんに相談し、ふらほーと夢洲で明け方まで語り明かした冬、早いものでそれから丸2年が経ち、このたび無事に大団円を迎えることができました！

こうして全20話を本誌で掲載し、無事に最終巻コミックスまでを発行していただけたのはひとえに、読者の皆さまをはじめ支えて応援してくださった多くの方々のおかげです。ARIA編集長T様、前編集長K様ならびに担当I塚様、M山様、デザイナーの名和田様、販売そして宣伝の方々、印刷所の皆様、アシスタントさん、友人知人家族……いつも心からどうもありがとうございます……！

今回のコミックスカバーは主人公の瞳と護国寺のふたりです。近藤勇と土方歳三です！　テストはやっぱりこのふたりのツーショットだよねということでラフ案も数くらい描きまして、3巻までの統一感を大事にしようということで勇ましい瞳と護国寺の戦闘シーンに決まりました！

尾田推しの方、尾田と瞳ではなくて残念でした……。しかし尾田はヒーローポジションで大健闘してましたね。なにせ3巻までの段階で圧倒的に戦いのアドバンテージは尾田にありましたし、護国寺は自分でフラグをへし折ってましたからね……。しかし最後は護国寺です。新連組の近藤勇を渡るのはやはり土方歳三をおいて他にいないんです～　普段は無骨で不器用極まりない護国寺ですが、いざという時に身体を張って瞳を護るのも彼以外にいないんですね。……はいえ恋愛沙汰となると話は別です。浮世離れした護国寺がしっかり瞳をリードできるか否か、これからが男（？）護国寺の真の正念場かもしれません。「方程式で解けない恋愛は試験や戦より難しい……」ときっと思うに違いありません。油断すると尾田が瞳をさらっていくかもしれませんし、なんたてヒロインの携帯番号を聞き出すことに成功した男ですからね。実子（？）護国寺の煮え切らない愛情表現に業を煮やした瞳が尾田に相談する日もそう遠くない未来かも……！？

機会があったら、いつかどこかで彼らのアフターエピソードも描けたらよいなと思ってます。その時にはまたARIA本誌でお会いできます日を楽しみにしております。ここまで読んで最後までお付き合いくださっておりますありがとうございます！　ご感想やご要望等いただけたらとても嬉しいです！

櫻井しゅしゅ

Special Thanks ◆ Uten、Teuta、Hnma-Msuda、Stou、And you